

Samizdat: energy realism bites back

Net Zero Watch press release



The headlines

UK

- Tice: AR7 support will not last
- Energy bills to rise this Autumn
- Energy is the hidden ingredient in UK food inflation
- Norway strikes major North Sea oil find
- UK North Sea tax slump threatens GB Energy
- Rayner sued over £1bn data centre approval

International

- Californian blackouts blamed on green energy
- Supermajors ramp up investment in LNG

Etcetera

Media, op-eds and all the rest.

From the blog

- Regime change for Arctic Sea ice
- The Highlands are revolting!



UK

Tice: AR7 support will not last

Writing in *Energy Voice*, Richard Tice [tells](#) renewables developers to “walk away” from AR7. In his first direct message to the sector, he warns the politics of net zero are shifting - and future subsidies can’t be guaranteed. He brands AR7 a threat to prices, security, and growth.

Energy bills to rise this Autumn

Cornwall Insight [forecasts](#) a 1% rise in the typical annual energy bill from October, bringing it to £1,737. Despite stable wholesale prices, policy-driven costs - like the [expanded](#) Warm Home Discount - are pushing bills up.

Energy is the hidden ingredient in UK food inflation

Food inflation [hit](#) 4.9% in July, with prices up 37% over five years. While weather and global shocks get headlines, rising energy costs remain a major but underreported factor.

Norway strikes major North Sea oil find

Norway has [made](#) one of its biggest North Sea oil discoveries in a decade - 134 million barrels - just 100 miles from Shetland. The find, in a region thought to be fully explored, highlights the policy gap with the UK, where new fossil fuel licences have been banned under Ed Miliband.

UK North Sea tax slump threatens GB Energy

Falling windfall tax revenues risk blowing a hole in the Autumn Budget, RSM UK [warns](#). July’s North Sea receipts dropped to £770m, well below forecasts, casting doubt on Labour’s ability to fund GB Energy as planned.

Rayner sued over £1bn data centre approval

Angela Rayner [faces](#) a legal challenge from green groups after approving a £1bn AI data centre in Buckinghamshire. Activists say the decision bypassed environmental checks and threatens net zero goals, warning of major energy and water demands.



International

Californian blackouts blamed on green energy

Rolling blackouts in California are being [linked](#) to overdependence on wind and solar, which drop off during peak demand. Critics say shutting reliable gas and nuclear plants has left the grid exposed - forcing the state to restart fossil fuel stations to keep lights on.

Supermajors ramp up investment in LNG

Oil majors are [betting](#) big on liquified natural gas, throwing down the gauntlet to predictions of peak gas by the end of the decade. Shell, TotalEnergies and Exxon Mobil are all doubling down on LNG investments and betting against the energy transition.

Etcetera...

Maurice [wrote](#) for The Critic about the cost of living crisis being made in SW1. He also appeared on the Taxpayers' Alliance's podcast to [discuss](#) the UK's Emissions Trading Scheme.

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, a long-time green, [warns](#) that Ed Miliband's rigid push for 2030 clean power targets is backfiring - overloading the grid, inflating costs, and deterring investment. He argues it risks the entire Net Zero target.



Fri, Aug 22

The decline in Arctic sea-ice has become a poster child for climate change. Who can forget that Al Gore won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for, among other failed climate predictions, saying that the

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Tue, Aug 19

Over 50 community councils from across the Scottish Highlands and Islands have launched a campaign calling for a moratorium on renewable infrastructure throughout the region. At a packed meeting last

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